

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 have been cancelled. New claims 38-46 have been added. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and in other applications. The specification has been amended to correct a minor grammatical error. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments.

New claims 38-46 are based upon the granted claims of the corresponding Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-231641. Support for the new claims can be found in at least the following portions of the present specification:

Claims 38, 41 and 44 - page 14, line 6 to page 15, line 8, page 19, line 15 to page 20, line 4, page 20, lines 8-18, page 21, line 22 to page 22, line 5; and FIGS. 4, 5, 6, 11 and FIG. 12.

Claims 39, 42 and 45 - page 37, line 23 to page 38, line 3, page 38, line 25 to page 39, line 15; and FIGS. 27, 28 and 29.

Claims 40, 43 and 46 - page 38, line 25 to page 39, line 8; and FIGS. 27, 28 and 29.

Claims 1-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakazawa in view of Sasaki. The rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 1-37 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 38-46 are allowable over the cited combination for at least the following reasons. For example, claim 38 recites a “control method . . . executed by a control means of [an] information processing device.” According to claim 38, the method comprises “a step of designating a distance from one character placed in said first virtual space to specify at least one character placed within said distance; a step of creating a second virtual space based upon said distance when specifying said at least one character; a step of placing said at least one character in said second virtual space; and a step of photographing an image of said at least one character seen from a virtual viewpoint corresponding to said information processing

device in said second virtual space in accordance with an operated input of said information processing device.”

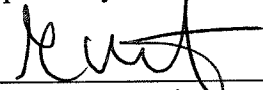
Applicants respectfully submit that the cited portions of the Nakazawa and Sasaki references fail to teach or suggest these limitations. Moreover, Applicants submit that there is no disclosure in either reference that teaches or suggests “photographing an image of . . . at least one character seen from a virtual viewpoint corresponding to [an] information processing device in . . . second virtual space” based on “designating a distance from one character placed in said first virtual space,” “creating [the] second virtual space based upon said distance” and “placing said at least one character in said second virtual space.” This process is simply not taught or suggested by the cited combination.

Claims 39 and 40 depend from claim 38 and are allowable along with claim 38 and on their own merits. Claims 41-46 contain similar limitations as claims 38-40 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the above, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Thomas J. D'Amico

Registration No.: 28,371
Gianni Minutoli
Registration No.: 41,198
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP
1825 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-5403
(202) 420-2200
Attorneys for Applicants